



## 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT







## MISSION

The Mission of Dream Camp Summer Program and After School Academy is to transform the lives of underserved youth through innovative year-long programs that nurture the individual, educate the mind, and inspire the spirit.

## VISION

We strive to break the cycle of generational poverty in underserved communities by teaching children to create successful pathways for themselves. Dream Camp empowers them to become future leaders and contributors to the city.

1	.....WELCOME
2-3	..... AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY
4-5	.....DREAM MEALS
6-7	.....SUMMER DAY CAMP
8-9	..... SUMMER SPORTSLAB
10-11	..... DREAM CAMP IMPACT
12-13	..... SPECIAL PROGRAMS
14-15	..... ALUMNI
16-17	.....DREAM TEAM
18-19	... EXECUTIVE AND LEADERSHIP TEAM
20-21	..... PROGRAM PARTNERS

## DEAR FRIENDS

The opportunity gap in our country, already significant, has been greatly exacerbated by the pandemic. At Dream Camp, we have persisted vigorously to support our students and their families through our virtual programs with live instruction and hands-on activities during the school year. Our Dream Meals initiative has ensured food security to those in desperate need, and we finally got back to in-person learning at our 2021 Summer Camp!

It is an understatement to share the sheer joy we felt and saw first-hand in our students' eyes each day this summer. It was powerful!

For our youngest students in Day Camp, many have never had the structured routine of a "normal" school day or extracurricular programs as the pandemic did not allow for in-person learning.

For our middle schoolers, we gave relief from the online social pressures that continue to plague our Gen Z youth, who are now being coined "zoomers." For those in our Mentor-in-Training and Young

Leaders Programs, the ability to engage with their peers and trusted mentors was transformative. We cannot adequately express the gratitude we feel for being able to support our students and their families throughout the year and to see our students again this summer by successfully running safe, Covid-free, meaningful programs in the 2020-21 school year.

Please join us in celebration of our dedication and accomplishments as you read through the year's highlights from our 2020-21 academic year programs and the summer of 2021. We are proud of our students, thankful to our staff, and grateful to our partners and funders during these unprecedented times. We hope you will continue to stay engaged in our students' progress so together we can change the world, one child at a time.

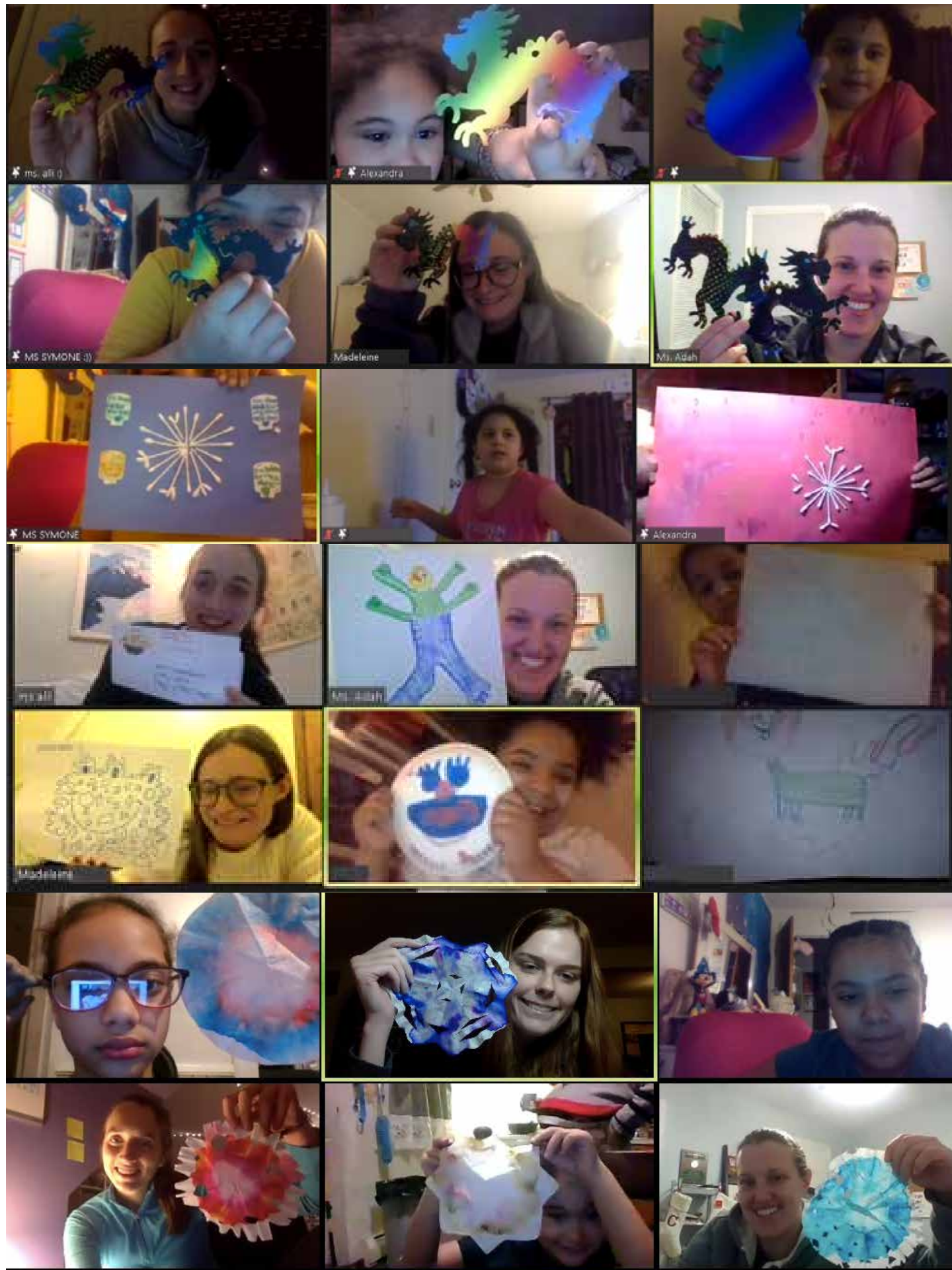
With gratitude and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJR'.

Michael J. Rouse  
Executive Director







# AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY

The Dream Camp After School Academy was determined to operate in 2020-21, despite the global pandemic that forced many programs around the nation to pause.

ASA ran for 21 weeks and engaged 70 students in kindergarten through grade twelve.

Students in kindergarten through the sixth grade met four days a week for reading, art, fitness, and STEM classes. Students experimented with KiwiCo projects, celebrated diverse cultures and holidays with art projects, and read many books throughout the year. The CT Science Center led our younger students through an exploration of habitats and how animals and insects protect themselves using the camouflage effect. The boys and girls were able to meet a bearded dragon and a black rat snake on Zoom!

Students were able to connect with our Philadelphia Dream Camp ASA virtual programs.

Middle and high school students attended fitness, STEM, and art classes in addition to special workshops throughout the school year. The workshops included a financial literacy program, an essay writing workshop, and a scholarship-seeking seminar. The CT Science Center taught our older students about the extreme effects of air by watching air cannons and other items explode on Zoom.



## 9

TRINITY COLLEGE  
STUDENTS ON STAFF





# DREAM MEALS

Dream Camp families were treated to dinner meal-kit deliveries during the 2020-21 school year and two meals each day during summer camp. With many parents still out of work due to the pandemic, Dream Camp once again teamed up with the Philadelphia-based Carlino's Market to provide our camp families with meal boxes and recipes for healthy and delicious dinners. Dream Meal boxes were delivered every Wednesday during the fall and spring semesters with the help of Trinity College staff and students. Dream Camp families received special Thanksgiving and Easter dinner boxes from Carlino's as well.



The total number of dinners provided during the 2020-21 school year was 7,520. This brought the grand total of dinners provided to Dream Camp families in Hartford to 17,276 dinners since the start of the pandemic in the spring of 2020.

During summer camp, students were provided with a healthy breakfast to power-start their day, a nutritious lunch that always included fruit and vegetables, and a light snack to bridge the gap from lunch until students went home. Dream Camp students' favorites were the blueberry muffins, cereal, and apples for breakfast and chicken alfredo with broccoli for lunch.



17,276  
DINNERS PROVIDED SINCE  
SPRING 2020







# SUMMER DAY CAMP

What a joy it was to welcome back the Day Camp students in grades 1-4 to Trinity College for our in-person summer camp from June 28-July 30.

Camp came alive during morning assemblies with songs, Spirit Stick challenges, and dance parties. The students enjoyed reading, art, STEM, sports, music, and swim. They were given ample opportunities to enjoy the outdoors as they learned how to play recorders and soccer on the Trinity College Quad. In art class with Ms. Ivori, spray bottles were used to make fireworks, and children decorated the bunk-a-lows that represent each bunk in Camper Village.

Spirits were soaring when the Bobcats helped kick off Summer Survivor, a highly anticipated camp tradition each year!

Day Camp students learned about respect, gratitude, resiliency, kindness, and community during the Learning Platform Curriculum that was embedded in morning assemblies and the day-to-day curriculum. Certified lifeguards and instructors taught the children how to float and jump safely into the pool. Swimming was everyone's favorite activity in Day Camp, especially on the hot summer afternoons!



SUMMER SURVIVOR  
CHAMPIONS:  
**BLUE TEAM**





# SUMMER SPORTSLAB

SportsLab students in grades 5 through 12 were welcomed back with new activities and classes for the summer of 2021 at Trinity College.

Taking note of what classes were enjoyed during the summer of 2020 on Zoom, we added art and STEM lessons to the SportsLab daily schedule. The students also participated in basketball, football, team handball, soccer, swimming, volleyball, disc golf, yoga, reading, and music production. The best part of the summer was seeing our students' smiling faces as they were able to play sports outside in the sunshine. Soccer with Mr. Spencer was once again one of the campers' favorite activities!

Students enjoyed learning how to play disc golf, a rapidly growing lifetime sport that was played across Trinity's campus.

The 5th and 6th grade students had a visit from the CT Science Center. They built structures using marshmallows, toothpicks, string, tape, straws, and pipe cleaners. These structures were then tested with the help of a shake table to see which "building" would withstand an earthquake!

Music class included guitar, bass, and keyboard lessons. In art, students worked on their own personal logos, painted landscapes, and practiced printmaking.



## 95%

SUMMER ATTENDANCE RATE





# DREAM CAMP IMPACT

100%

FAMILIES THAT WOULD  
RECOMMEND DREAM CAMP  
TO OTHERS



COUNTLESS SMILES  
PROVIDED BY MIRACLE ON  
WEST DELIVERIES



174  
STUDENTS



91%

ASA ATTENDANCE RATE



10

TRINITY COLLEGE  
STUDENTS ON STAFF

74

SCHOOLS SERVED





# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The Mentor-In-Training (MIT) and Young Leadership Programs (YLP) were offered to 15 through 17-year-olds this summer.

Several of the students participated in a hybrid program through the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) during the first two weeks of Dream Camp. The students learned from CHOP physicians and faculty online during the first week and conducted hands-on experiments alongside a Trinity College mentor the second week. They dissected frogs, delivered presentations, and learned how to blood type during the session.

MITs spent their days with their group attending regular camp activities, as well as having time to work on resumes, research colleges, and explore possible career paths.

Two seventeen-year-olds in the YLP program worked with Dream Camp staff to help other students reach their full potential.

Natanya worked with Day Camp students for five weeks, while Ricky split his summer between Day Camp and the SportsLab groups.



82%  
STUDENT RETENTION







# ALUMNI

Dream Camp has helped shape the lives of so many adolescents on their journey to become responsible and successful young adults.

All 8 Dream Camp 2021 high school graduates had post-secondary plans in place prior to graduation. Two alumni started school at Howard University, one at Virginia State University, and three traveled to Florida to attend Florida State College, University of South Florida, and Daytona State College. One alumnus started at CT Broadcasting School, and another entered the U.S. Marines.

Dream Camp is proud to report that four alumni graduated college this past year.

Kendall Powell graduated from Kenyon College and is now a Credit Research Analyst at Goldman Sachs in Salt Lake City, UT. David Sandoval graduated from UConn, Cole Reavill graduated from Lake Erie College, and Tariq Levy-Pulliam graduated from Hofstra University.

Five alumni have now completed graduate programs, and a total of 56 alumni have graduated with a bachelor's degree since Dream Camp's inception. Two Dream Camp alumni, Gabe Arciniegas and Chelsea Flores, got married on November 5, 2021!



11

DREAM CAMP  
ALUMNI ON STAFF





# DREAM TEAM

Ms. Ivori has been a staple of Dream Camp for 20 years. She had her best summer in 2021 and was named our Ichiban Award winner.

Ms. Ivori was the Day Camp Art Specialist, but she also participated in every assembly, ran AM and PM extended day program, supported new specialists and counselors, covered the office, and taught other classes when a staff member was absent. Ms. Ivori had the most spirit and taught fantastic art lessons, which included creating magic wands, splatter painting the Bunk-a-Lows, and more!

Coach Spencer was named the Master Teacher of Dream Camp 2021!

As our SportsLab Soccer Specialist, Spencer revitalized the soccer class and made it incredible for all campers, no matter their skill level! He met each child's educational, emotional, and athletic need while bringing out the best in each student. When Spencer was not teaching, he could be found helping other specialists, running PM OT, and embracing his "Captain Respectacular" persona for his visits to Day Camp.



NUMBER OF TEAM MEMBERS  
72





“Dream Camp means the world to me. My life would be so different without it.”

—KENDALL,  
DREAM CAMP ALUMNUS



“I’ve spent over 10 years with Dream Camp as a camper, a YLP, and a counselor. I can say many things about what Dream Camp means to me but it all stems from one word: family.”

—DAVID,  
DREAM CAMP ALUMNUS



“You guys rock! You’re absolutely, without a doubt, the ‘Dream Team’ of summer camps.”

—MARITZA, PARENT



## EXECUTIVE & LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Michael J. Rouse**  
*Co-Founder and Executive Director*  
24 years

**Dan Swartz**  
*Site Director*  
19 years

**Adah Gillon**  
*Program Director, Assistant Site Director*  
12 years

**Jules Catania**  
*Managing Director*  
6 years





# PROGRAM PARTNERS

**A huge thank you to our partners, who make the dream possible.**



Alumni, parents and friends of Trinity College

Barnes Foundation

Ensworth Charitable Foundation

Enterprise Holdings Foundation

Farmington Bank Community Foundation

Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund

Foundation for Life

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Landon Charitable Foundation

George A. and Grace L. Long Foundation

Charles Nelson Robinson Fund

William and Alice Mortensen Foundation

SBM Charitable Foundation

**A very special thank you to Mr. Paul Raether ('68)  
and his family for their continued support of Dream Camp.**







**DREAM CAMP AT TRINITY COLLEGE** 300 SUMMIT STREET • HARTFORD, CT 06106  
**ESF DREAM CAMP HEADQUARTERS** 750 EAST HAVERFORD ROAD • BRYN MAWR, PA 19010  
[WWW.ESFDREAMCAMP.ORG](http://WWW.ESFDREAMCAMP.ORG)

